



# The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the  
**Southwest Region**  
April 2022



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**The Fly-By** is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter.

Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

**Text** may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a .txt or Word .doc/docx, or, if written in another word processor, saved as an .RTF).

**Images** in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 x 900 pixels, sent as attachments, never embedded in the document.

**Credits:** In all cases, please give full grade, name, and unit of assignment of

- The article's author(s),
- Photographer, and
- Anyone in the article or appearing in photos.

— oOo —

Send submissions to the Editor at:

[awoodgate735@gmail.com](mailto:awoodgate735@gmail.com)

Message size limit: 20 MB. If too big, please send it in two emails.



## **SWR Commander's Corner**

Spring is here and not a moment too soon. The season of Wing Conferences is upon us, and this year might be more important than years past.

Most wings have not had a conference in the last two years, so it is time to get together, renew friendships and continue with the business of CAP.

Please try and get together with your fellow CAP members and you will not regret it.

While speaking to a group the other day, I ended with... "I joined CAP to fly and stayed for the people".

That statement is Civil Air Patrol in a nutshell. It is the people  
Make the journey and go to your wing conference... you will not regret it.  
Until next time, 🇺🇸

**Col. Martha C. Morris, CAP**  
Southwest Region Commander

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### ***Safety is Priority One***

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at  
<http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: [\*\*CAPSafety | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)\*\*](http://CAPSafety | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters (gocivilairpatrol.com))

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don't miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at [\*\*Safety Beacon | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)\*\*](http://Safety Beacon | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters (gocivilairpatrol.com))
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- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***



### ***How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter***

#### ***Which Articles Are Best?***

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction with or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

#### ***Do I Submit Photos?***

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

#### ***If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions***

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: [\*\*awoodgate735@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:awoodgate735@gmail.com).

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at  
<http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/> 🇺🇸

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**Left:** During training for the mission, Maj. (Dr.) Sian Proctor visited the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, the launch location for the Falcon 9 rocket carrying the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule. (Photo credit: SpaceX)

### ***Maj. (Dr.) Sian Proctor Shared Her Experience 'Becoming an Astronaut'***

*by Maj. Ron Marks, CAP, and Maj. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing*

PHOENIX – On March 23, 2022, nearly 200 CAP senior members and cadets joined a 90-minute virtual conference to hear from Maj. (Dr.) Sian Proctor, a member of Sky Harbor Composite Squadron in Phoenix, about her experience as an astronaut. Proctor, who in September 2021 orbited Earth for three days on the SpaceX Inspiration4 mission, is the first Black woman to pilot a spacecraft.

The webinar – titled “Space2inspire: Fostering an Open, Creative, and J.E.D.I. Space” – was hosted by the Arizona and California Wing Aerospace Education teams. Proctor participated in a similar session called “Becoming an Astronaut” in

July 2021, while she was in training for the September flight.

Proctor was selected for the Inspiration4 flight aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule in a contest sponsored by Jared Isaacman, the entrepreneur who privately funded the mission. She applied for, and won, the “Prosperity” seat on the flight, launching an online shop called My Space2inspire where she sells her space-themed art and poetry.

“I became a space artist during COVID,” Proctor said, “and decided that I should apply [for that seat] because being engaged in the arts really transformed me.” Proctor shared the short video she used to apply for the contest, reading a poem that she wrote for the occasion. In it she explains her concept of “J.E.D.I. Space”: “We have J for justice to ignite the bold; E for equity to cut past the old; D for diversity to end the fight; and I for inclusion to try to make it right.”

Proctor said that she was unsure about applying, figuring that there were many others who would make better candidates for the seat. “A lot of times we have this voice inside our head that is going to fuel us with doubt about whether or not we can do anything,” Proctor said. Then added, “They call that the ‘imposter syndrome’ voice and the way I’ve learned to deal with it is having a conversation [with myself] about it: ‘They may never select me, but what if they did?’”



A promotional flyer distributed to members of the California Wing brought nearly 100 attendees to join Arizona Wing members for the "Space2inspire: Fostering an Open, Creative, and J.E.D.I. Space" webinar. (Photo credit: 1st Lt. Kailash Kalidoss, CAP, California Wing)

On March 7, 2021, Proctor received a call from Isaacman telling her that she had been selected for the Prosperity seat. Though she was selected based on her artistic entrepreneurship, Isaacman also named her the mission pilot. Intensive training for the mission included a centrifuge experience, flying the SpaceX simulator, hiking Mount Rainier as a teambuilding exercise, and a zero-G flight.

Proctor, an assistant director of Aerospace Education for Arizona Wing, has had a very full schedule since returning from space so it was fortunate that she was able to take time to speak with CAP members. In her 30-minute presentation, Proctor shared her experiences with the SpaceX program and what it was like to travel into space.

"Getting the 'golden ticket' to go to space was an amazing moment," Proctor said. "When I was a cadet, there were two things I wanted to do. I wanted to go to the Air Force Academy and fly F-16s, then transition to becoming [an astronaut], like Dr. Mae Jemison (the first Black female to go to space)."

The dream of being a military pilot was dashed when Proctor's vision declined, and she had to get glasses. "When you get those kinds of disappointments, you have to figure out how to move forward," Proctor said. "For me, that was becoming an analog astronaut, living in Moon and Mars simulations. It took preparation and persistence. Preparation was things like Civil Air Patrol, traveling, and education. That's how you prepare for opportunity.

"Then you have persistence when you get setbacks, like a 'no' when you apply for something that you really want and don't get it. You have to be persistent and find new ways to keep moving forward," Proctor said. Entering the contest for a seat on the Inspiration4 mission was one of the ways Proctor said she demonstrated persistence.

"That responsibility of being a role model and encouraging other women of color – and people of color – to pursue space and space exploration, is something that I'm very passionate about," Proctor said. "As we write the narrative of human spaceflight now, and we are going to the Moon, Mars, and beyond, it's really important that we strive for this 'J.E.D.I. Space' if we truly want space to be for everyone."

Proctor urged the cadets to explore a variety of options, telling them that the arts and sciences aren't mutually exclusive. She foresees future space travel will require not just engineers, pilots,



## THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT DR. SIAN PROCTOR

**VIRTUAL EVENT**



**MARCH 23, 2022**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN  
THROUGH THE LINK BELOW OR VIA  
THE QR CODE  
<https://forms.gle/S83fqYHALNT19ibdA>



**WHO: DR. SIAN PROCTOR**  
ASTRONAUT, GEO SCIENTIST, CAP MEMBER AND NASA  
SOLAR SYSTEM AMBASSADOR

**WHAT: PRESENTATION + Q/A**  
**WHOM: FOR BOTH CADETS AND SENIOR MEMBERS**  
**WHEN: 23 MAR 2021 -- 1900-2030 PST**  
**WHERE: ONLINE THROUGH MS TEAMS**  
**COSTS: FREE!**



## The Fly-By, Southwest Region, January 2022

and scientists but also artists, architects, and people working in new jobs that haven't even been created yet.

After her presentation, Proctor spent nearly an hour answering questions from the cadets and senior members who attended the event. Capt. Brett Russo, an assistant director of Aerospace Education in Arizona Wing, invited questions in advance from participants and facilitated the live chat function of the web conference platform.

First Lt. Kailash Kalidoss, Group 2 Aerospace Education officer in California Wing, was responsible for promoting the event to California Wing members. Kalidoss shared the facilitator duties with Russo during the question-and-answer session.

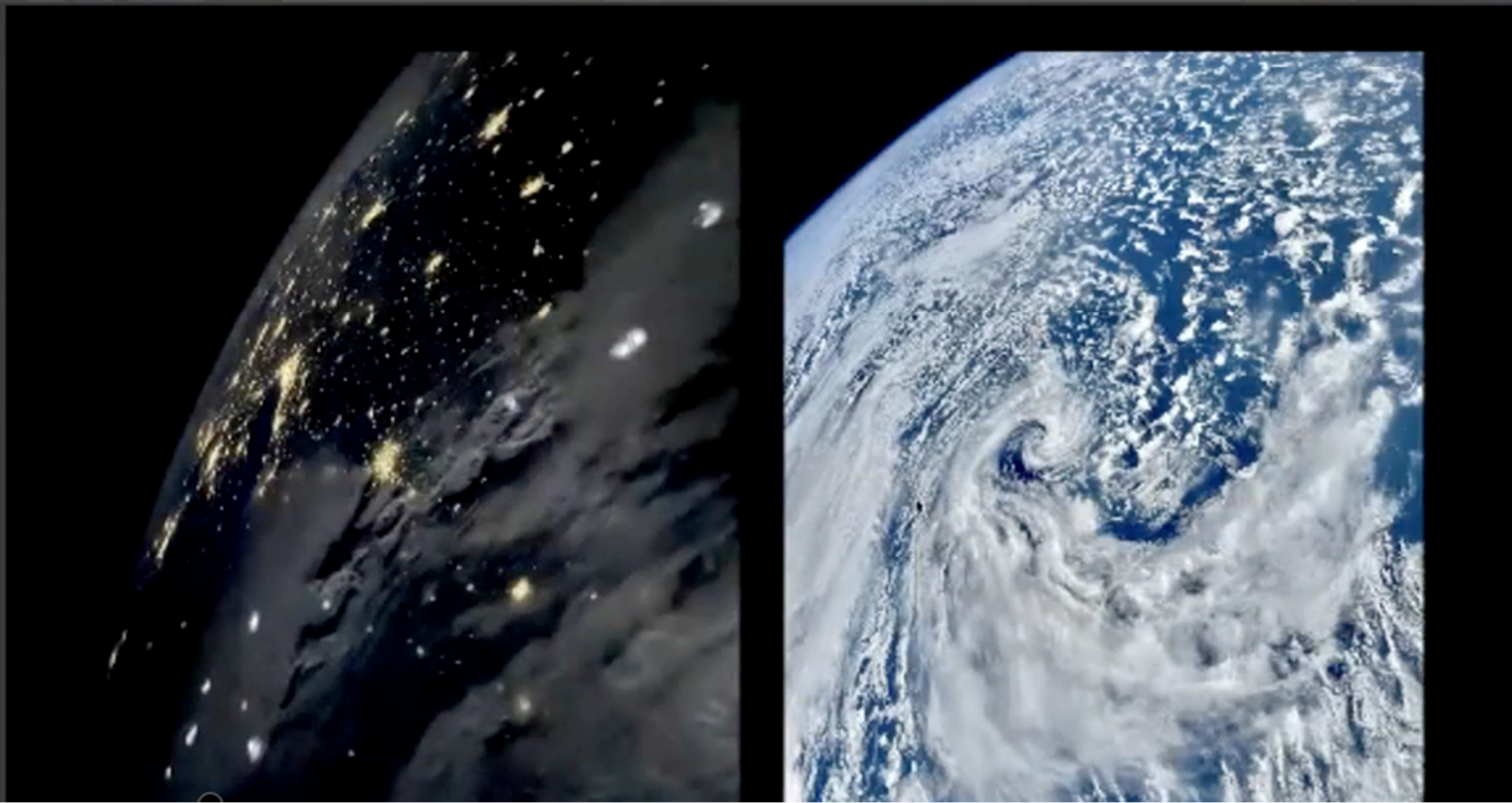
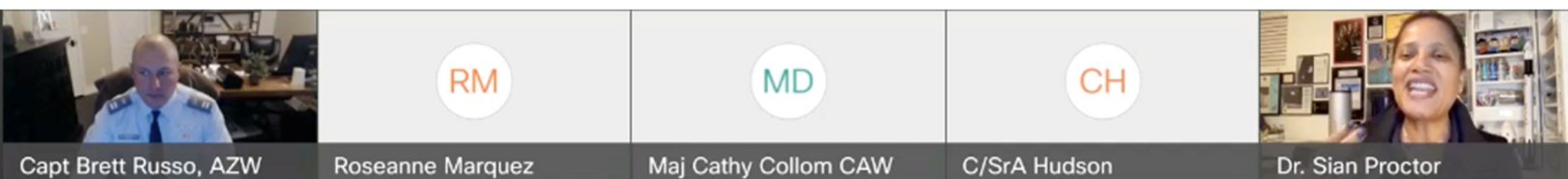
Taking a cue from the successful format of the session held prior to the launch, participants asked their questions directly to Proctor instead of having the moderator simply pass them along. It was especially meaningful for the cadets to have a chance to speak with an actual astronaut.

This was the first collaboration between the Arizona and California Wing Aerospace Education teams. Maj. Bob Kaye, a former assistant Aerospace Education director in Arizona Wing, relocated recently to California and now serves in the same role in California Wing. Kaye has supported the collaborative efforts, helping both wings improve their Aerospace Education programs.

When asked if she will return to space, Proctor was very hopeful and optimistic. "I hope so. I want to be a Moonwalker," she said, and would be interested in going to Mars if asked. "I think there will be opportunities for some of us 'seasoned individuals' to go to space."

Russo concluded the meeting with a message for cadets: "Learn to fly. Learn to code. Stay in Civil Air Patrol and promote. Don't ever give up on any dreams ... because as we can see from Sian, you never know what is coming around the corner." 🚀

**Below:** During the webinar, Maj. (Dr.) Proctor shared photos taken during her spaceflight including (left) city lights at night with lightning in the clouds and cloud patterns over Earth during the day. (Photo: screen capture from webinar)





**Top:** (L-R) New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presents Civil Air Patrol's Southwest Region Historian of the Year award to Socorro Composite Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Christine Kurtnaker, on behalf of Socorro Composite Squadron' historian Lt. Col. David Finley, who is also Southwest Region Historian. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

## ***Peters Presents Awards, Announces Reversion to Phase I Remobilization at Commanders Call***

*by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – At the January 8, 2022, Commanders Call and Staff Meeting, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presented awards to members who had been unable to attend the Wing Conference on November 6, 2021.

Peters presented the Southwest Region Historian of the Year award to Socorro Composite Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Christine Kurtnaker, who accepted on behalf of the squadron's historian, Lt. Col. David Finley, who is also the Southwest Region Historian. She presented streamers to squadrons that had earned Civil Air Patrol's Quality Cadet Unit Award for 2021, as well as the Benjamin O. Davis Award to senior members for completion of Level II of CAP's Education and Training Program, and the Gill Robb Wilson Award for completion of Level V, the highest level of achievement for senior members.

Peters also announced the Wing's reversion to Phase I of CAP's COVID-19 Remobilization Plan, which went into effect on January 10, 2022. Under Phase I, 10 or fewer low-risk members may meet in person, with self-identified high-risk members working from home. "It is critical that we as commanders remain mindful and check on our members concerning their well-being," she said. 🇺🇸



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**Right:** Cadet Colonel Andrew Aceves after achieving the grade of Cadet Colonel.

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## **Louisiana Wing Cadet Earns Spaatz Award**

by 1st Lt Anne Calvert, CAP,  
Louisiana Wing

COVINGTON, La. – On Jan 12, 2022, Cadet Lt. Col Andrew Aceves achieved his third diamond and the rank of Cadet Colonel as he was presented the Spaatz Achievement. The General Carl A. Spaatz Award is Civil Air Patrol's highest honor that a cadet can earn.

Cadets qualify for this prestigious award after an average of four years progressing through the sixteen achievements in the CAP cadet program. The Spaatz Award goes to cadets who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education.

Cadet Col. (now Senior Member) Aceves has joined the exclusive membership in The Spaatz Association as Spaatz recipient #2381. SM Aceves credits his success to setting goals early, careful time management, and project planning. He was first drawn to Civil Air Patrol's leadership training and character development, and because he wanted to serve our nation.

For SM Aceves, other past CAP achievements include graduating from The National Blue Beret National Cadet Special Activity, serving as Cadet Commander for the Louisiana Wing 2021 Summer Encampment, and as Cadet Commander for the St. Tammany Composite Squadron. Other achievements include performing at Carnegie Hall's Honor Performance Series. Parallel to his CAP membership, he has also earned the rank of Eagle Scout through his participation in The Boy Scouts of America.

SM Aceves is currently enrolled at Louisiana State University on a music scholarship, as pursuing a double major: a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance and bachelor of arts in church music. Known for his excellent knowledge of flag etiquette, he frequently sings the national anthem at local sporting events. He hopes one day to perform with one of the military choirs in Washington D.C. 🇺🇸







**Top:** Cadets from the 388th Composite Squadron posed in front of a large mural painted on a hangar door at the Commemorative Air Force Museum. (L-R) Cadet Senior Airman Matthew Tanzil, Cadet Capt. Austin Lindgren, Cadet Master Sgt. John Rico, Cadet Senior Airman Alexandra Grant, Cadet Master Sgt. Isabell Wilson, Cadet Senior Airman Leo Soter, Cadet Senior Airman Jaia Tapley, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Abella Luque. (Photos: Master Sgt. Gary Bridget, CAP)

## ***Arizona Wing Recruits, Promotes Aerospace Education at Museum's Family Day***

*by Maj. Ron Marks, CAP, Arizona Wing*

MESA, Ariz. – On March 12, 2022, Arizona Wing participated in a recruiting and aerospace education event at the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Museum in Mesa, Arizona. Master Sgt.





Gary Bridget, Arizona Wing recruiting and retention officer, worked with the wing's aerospace education team to coordinate activities for a CAF Airbase Arizona Family Day.

After the biannual airshow and open house at Luke Air Force Base were cancelled this year, Bridget was keen to find recruiting opportunities. To that end, he contacted the CAF museum to see if CAP could get involved with the Family Day event. The CAF was receptive to having CAP plan an activity for the

participating families. Capt. Nancy Parra-Quinlan, assistant director of aerospace education for Arizona Wing, prepared and delivered a "rocket straw" activity, complete with all the elements for the children to build their own rockets and compete for the most accurate rocket launched at a target.

**Above:** Behind-the-scenes tour: Cadets were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour with one of the museum docents.

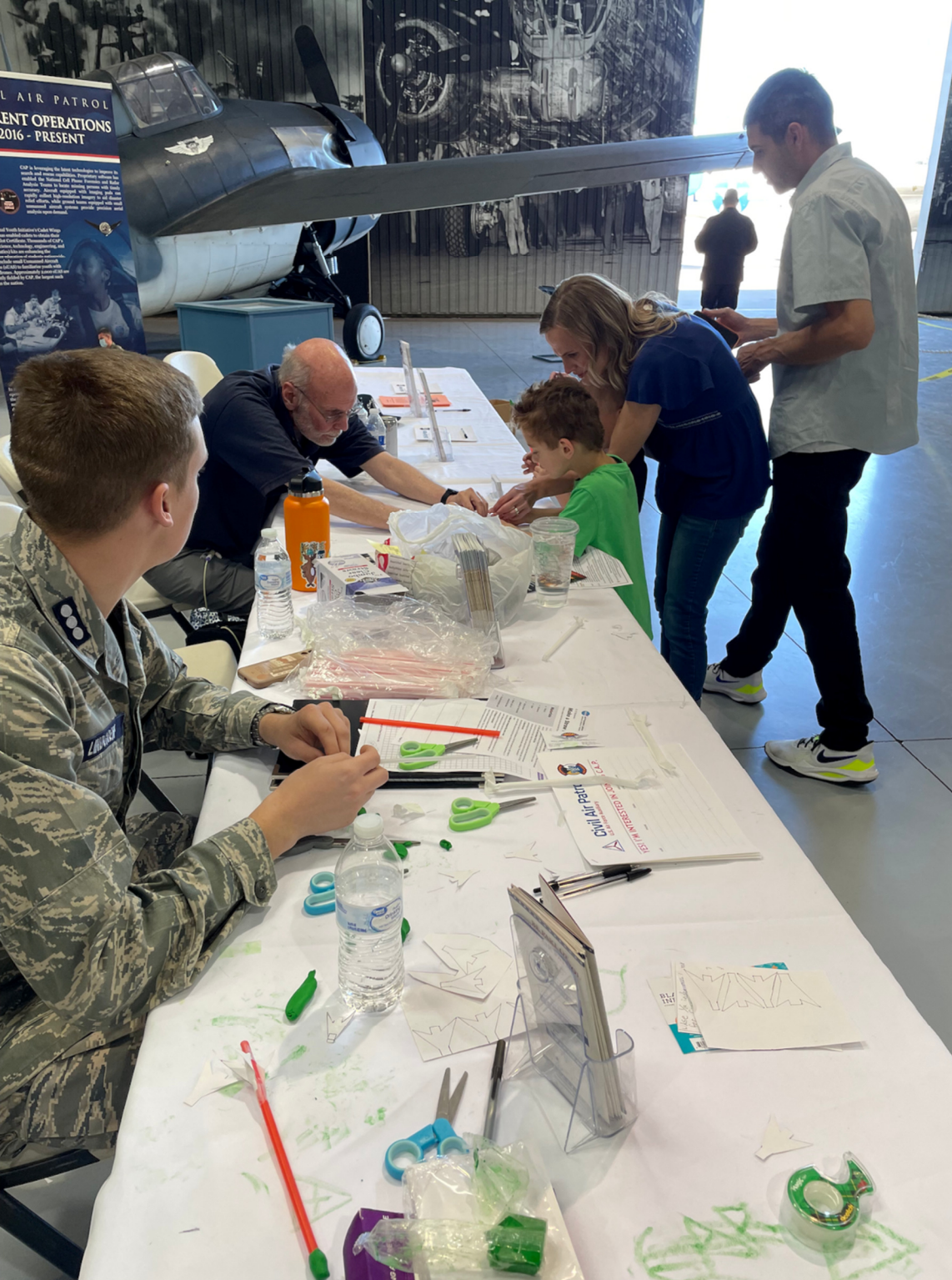
**Right:** Rocket launch winner: The future aviator in the leather flight jacket was the "Top Gun" at the "Rocket Straw" launch contest.

"The event was a big hit with museum patrons and the CAF was thrilled to have our cadets present at the museum," Bridget said. "Many of the parents were thankful for the activity, so they could have the chance to look at some exhibits at the museum."

Lt. Cols. Jackie Kostas and James Webb from the 388th Composite Squadron in







Glendale, along with 2nd Lt. Matthew Temple from Willie Composite Squadron in Mesa, helped the cadets set up the activity for the visitors. Bridget said that the group had quite the assembly line. Cadets also were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour from one of the CAF docents.

**Left:** Cadet Capt. Austin Lindgren and Lt. Col. James Webb helped children and their parents get started with the "rocket straw" activity.

In addition to the aerospace activity, the members were able to meet potential recruits for CAP. "The activity provided the perfect distraction for the children while we were able to speak to the parents about CAP," Bridget said. "We were able to collect several good referrals on

potential members, both senior and cadet.

"While many of these potential members were east valley residents, this was a great opportunity for the west siders from Glendale to come over and help the wing," Bridget said. "We appreciate the teamwork!"

The Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located on the Falcon Field Airport in Mesa. A new Civil Air Patrol historical display is being installed in the museum in April, providing an additional opportunity to showcase CAP to aviation enthusiasts who visit the museum from around the world. 🌐





**Top:** High School JROTC Cadets pose with their CAP Orientation Pilots. Back row: Jimmy Hall, Logan Garner, Taylor Johnson, Courtney Berner, Jaiden Osner, Sage Everest-Fukino, Capt. Ronnie Sexton, CAP; Sky Thomason. Front Row Maj. Tommy Littleton, CAP; Zaynab Pounds, Celeste Harmon, Liliana Salinas, Annie Mae DiFlorio, Mackenzie Ballinger, Hannah Beaher, Halle Hardin, and Lt. Col. Richard "Red" Smith. *(Photographer unknown)*

**Below:** Beebe High School JROTC Instructor Maj Jeffery Cathey, USAF (Ret) listens in as the JROTC Cadets are briefed on the day's events and flight plan. *(All photos: Lt. Col. Richard Smith, CAP, unless otherwise noted)*

## ***Arkansas Wing Takes Beebe JROTC Cadets to New Heights.***

*by Lt. Col. Charles Rine, Arkansas Wing*

SEARCY, Ark. – Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, supports Air Force missions which includes supporting Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) units. CAP accomplishes this by providing STEM kits to schools, being an aerospace education resource for the units and to provide orientation rides to cadets.







**Left:** Beebe High School JROTC Cadets inspect and were allowed to explore the aircraft that they would fly in for their Orientation Flight.

**Below:** Lt. Col. Richard "Red" Smith takes the opportunity for an inflight photo with JROTC Cadets Courtney Berner (front) and Taylor Johnson

On March 2, 2022, twelve cadets from Beebe High School's JROTC unit, AR-20012, located in Beebe Arkansas, were provided orientation rides in CAP aircraft. The JROTC cadets met with CAP pilots Lt. Col Richard "Red" Smith, Maj.

Tommy Littleton, Jr., and Capt. Ronnie Sexton, in Searcy, Arkansas to facilitate the flights.

Beebe High School's JROTC unit is commanded by Maj. Jeffery Cathey, USAF (Ret.), who, has been instructing the cadets in aerospace education and the fundamentals of flight. The orientation flights gave the cadets some practical application to what they had been learning in the classroom. For many Beebe Cadets, this was the first time to fly in any aircraft.

The cadets had a preflight briefing that explained what would take place during the flight. They were shown how to conduct a proper preflight inspection, and were allowed to explore the aircraft and ask questions about how the plane functions. Cadet Celeste Harmon, a freshman at Beebe High School had mentioned that she was apprehensive about the flight, as she had never flown before. She later mentioned that the preflight briefing had helped ease her anxiety.

Maj. Littleton noted about the cadets that flew with him, "None of them had ever handled the controls of an airplane. I let each one fly the airplane for a while, and they all enjoyed the flights as well as I did. They were outstanding students." He added that the weather was great for flying.

A consensus from the cadets was that they had a great time. After her, flight Cadet Harmon said, "It was an amazing experience!" Cadet Taylor Johnson, a Senior, in which this was her first flight in a general aviation said that she had loved the experience.

Although, many of the cadets had not flown before, a few had other experiences and desires in aviation, such as Beebe High School Senior, Courtney Berner and Junior Jimmy Hall who both have been accepted to the AFJROTC Flight Academy, which they will complete over the summer. It is through orientation rides through organizations such as EAA's Young Eagles, AFROTC, AFJROTC and CAP that can inspire today's youth to become tomorrow's aerospace leaders. 🇺🇸







**Top:** New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presents Socorro Composite Squadron Cadet Commander Cadet Capt. David Hines with his Amelia Earhart Award. (Photos: 1st Lt. William Anderson, CAP)

## ***New Mexico Wing Cadet Earns Earhart Award***

*by Lt. Col. Dave Finley, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

SOCORRO, N.M. – A Socorro cadet earned Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award and promotion to cadet captain, which was presented on a March 10, 2022, ceremony, which included four other cadets and a senior member all of whom received promotions, plus another senior member who was presented a CAP Commander's Commendation Award.

Cadet Capt. David Hines received his Earhart Award Certificate from New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, who had also presented Hines with his Gen. Billy Mitchell Award Certificate in August 2021.

Hines, who joined CAP in August 2018, is currently the Socorro Composite Squadron's cadet commander. He also serves in the Wing's Cadet Advisory Council and has earned Emergency Services qualifications as a Ground Team Member, Urban Direction-Finding Team Member, Flightline Marshaller and Mission Radio Operator.





**Above:** New Mexico Southern Group Commander Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter receives CAP's Commander's Commendation Award Certificate from Col. Peters

The Earhart Award, named after the famous aviator and writer, marks the completion of Phase III of Civil Air Patrol's four-phase Cadet Program. It recognizes sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life – leadership, aerospace, physical fitness, and character. To earn the award, cadets must pass comprehensive examinations on both leadership and aerospace topics.

In other promotions, S.M. Kevin Hines was promoted to second lieutenant, and the following cadets received their current grades: Cadet 1st Lt. Gene Hamm, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Hines, Cadet Senior Airman Anna Hines, and Cadet Airman 1st Class Owen Murphy.

Following the promotions, Col. Peters presented New Mexico Southern Group Commander Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter with CAP's Commander's Commendation Award, recognizing his exemplary contributions to the 2021 New Mexico Wing Conference held at Kirtland Air Force Base on November 6, 2021. Hunter served as safety officer for the conference, held under COVID-19 restrictions, and provided logistical support during the event.

Attending the ceremony were Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Andrew Selph and Wing Maintenance Officer Maj. Mark Peters. 🇺🇸



**Right:** (L-R) Second Lt. Brad Staub, Sheldon Ross, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs logistics chief, and Lt. Col. Vic LaSala met at the Deer Valley Airport, where Staub and LaSala transferred four cartons of helmets and body armor donated by the Sedona Police Department to be shipped to Ukraine.  
(Photographer unknown.)

## **Arizona Wing Pilots Transport Equipment Bound for Ukraine**

by Maj. Margot Myers,  
CAP, Arizona Wing



PHOENIX – As Arizona Wing prepared for a three-day, wing wide operational exercise in late March 2022, a call came from the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) to Arizona Wing Commander Col. Rob Pinckard. DEMA was collecting helmets, body armor, tactical clothing, and other equipment from law enforcement agencies around the state to support Ukrainian Territorial Defense Forces. Could CAP assist with transporting some of the donations from Sedona (in northern Arizona) to Phoenix?

On March 26, 2022, Lt. Col. Vic LaSala, commander of Arizona Wing's North Command Group, served as mission pilot and 2nd Lt. Brad Staub as mission observer. The task was simple: meet Sedona Police Chief Charles Husted at the Sedona airport and transport four large cartons to Deer Valley Airport in Phoenix.

Fortunately, Sedona is home to the only Cessna 206 assigned to the Arizona Wing. "It's a good thing we have the [Cessna] 206," LaSala said. "Those four cartons weren't that heavy, but they were bulky and never would have fit in a 182."

On arrival at Deer Valley Airport, LaSala and Staub met up with Sheldon Ross, DEMA Logistics Chief, and transferred the four cartons to him. Those cartons were added to a total of 9,000 pounds of equipment bound for Ukraine.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey's office said in a news release, "The equipment was donated by 11 local, county, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies. It includes 874 bulletproof vests, 77 helmets, miscellaneous tactical clothing, footwear, pads, and shields. The 17 pallets of equipment will be transported to Ukraine by the Ukrainian Relief Group and are anticipated to be delivered in the next two weeks."

In an email to Pinckard, Ross expressed his thanks for the Arizona Wing's "logistics assistance with collecting and delivering donations of body armor for the Ukrainian territorial defense efforts from the Sedona Police Department to the Deer Valley Airport.

"This donation of 21 (Level 3a) helmets and 12 (Level 3a) ballistic vests will be added to the items collected around the state to be shipped to the Ukraine," Ross said.

"On behalf of Allen Clark, director of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, and our operations and logistics team, we appreciate the fantastic assistance that you and your wonderful team have provided," Ross said. 🇺🇸





**Top:** Wildwood Elementary School teacher Margaret Rodrigue and CAP pilot 1st Lt. Barry Huggins inspect the CAP Cessna C-182 aircraft in which Ms. Rodrigue took her teacher orientation flight at Baton Rouge Metropolitan airport. (Photos: Capt. Ken Best, CAP)

## ***Louisiana Wing CAP Squadron Flies Wildwood Elementary teacher***

*by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUGE, La. - On March 13, 2022, the Capital City Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) took Ms. Margaret Rodrigue, an elementary school teacher, on a Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flight from Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport.

CAP's nationwide TOP program is designed to familiarize teachers with flight and to help them develop their presentation of aerospace education to their students. Its intention is to motivate teachers to bring aviation to their students who then may participate as cadets in CAP or go on to aviation careers in the military or civilian aerospace industry. The CAP program is further designed to alleviate the shortage of pilots both in the military and in the commercial sectors of the aviation community.

Ms. Rodrigue teaches 4th and 5th grade gifted math and science at Wildwood Elementary School in Baton Rouge. In her post flight review of her experience she said, "As a STEM teacher, I'm always looking for ways to expand my students' learning. Adding in aerospace concepts is something I've been working towards."

She added, "I've been able to incorporate a few lessons over the last few years including a "Things that Fly" engineering design challenge and an exploration on gravity. I've also taken advantage of the offerings from CAP to educator members of hands-on STEM activities that support aeronautics education. Every CAP lesson has inspired my students and they have loved them! "



"As a CAP Education member, I was offered the chance to participate in a flight a few years ago, but my fear kept me from taking it. Recently, the opportunity again came across my desk and I decided to walk through my fear and just do it. The two gentlemen that walked me through the process obviously love flying. They were well versed in safety, so my safety fears were quickly quelled. I had never flown in such a small plane so I didn't know how it would feel and quickly realized you can definitely feel more than on a large commercial plane."

She continued, "Even though I was less afraid than I had anticipated, the motion was more than I was prepared for; so I got a bit sick during the flight. But that's okay, because I made it through an experience I was afraid of. I can now share not only the aeronautics with my students, but I can also share my experience of not letting your fears keep you from having fun educational experiences."

Rodrigue concluded by saying, "What's next? I'll take what I gained from this experience and design some more lessons for the students I'll have next year. I might even try another flight next year, with some anti-nausea medicine of course. Maybe this time, we can fly over the school while the students wave me on!"

Teachers who may be interested in this program can contact the Louisiana Wing Director of Aerospace Education, First Lieutenant Jud Ergle, at [judergle1@hotmail.com](mailto:judergle1@hotmail.com) or 504-756-9255 (cell). 📱

**Below:** Wildwood Elementary School teacher Margaret Rodrigue at the controls of the CAP Cessna C-182 aircraft just prior to takeoff from the Baton Rouge Metropolitan airport.







**Top:** The WM Phoenix Open golf tournament attracts thousands of spectators every year. (Photo: WM Phoenix Open)

## ***Two Arizona Wing Squadrons Fly High Over Waste Management Golf Open***

*by Tech. Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing*

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – On two days in February 2022, high over the Phoenix WM Open golf tournament, an aircrew from Willie Composite Squadron in Mesa and Sky Harbor Composite Squadron in Phoenix took nearly 450 photos to complete a mission for the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) and the Scottsdale Police Department.

The mission consisted of two sorties on two days to identify high traffic corridors and large crowd areas at TPC Scottsdale, the golf course where the PGA tournament is held. On February 6, the first sortie was flown to establish baseline normal traffic conditions in the vicinity of the golf course. Lt. Col Jason Brookham was the mission pilot and Maj. Clark McNeace was the mission observer, both from Willie Squadron. The airborne photographer was Tech. Sgt. John Horne from Sky Harbor Squadron.

The second sortie was flown on February 10 to assess traffic flows and crowd conditions during the actual event. McNeace was the mission pilot on this sortie with Willie Squadron's 1st Lt. Gary Stark as the mission observer, and Horne serving once again as the airborne photographer. McNeace and Stark skillfully maneuvered the airplane around several other aircraft towing large banners – and the Goodyear blimp – while still managing to position the CAP plane to get the required photographs.

Upon return to Chandler Regional Airport, the photos were transferred to several memory sticks that were picked up by a courier and transported to DEMA for review and assessment.



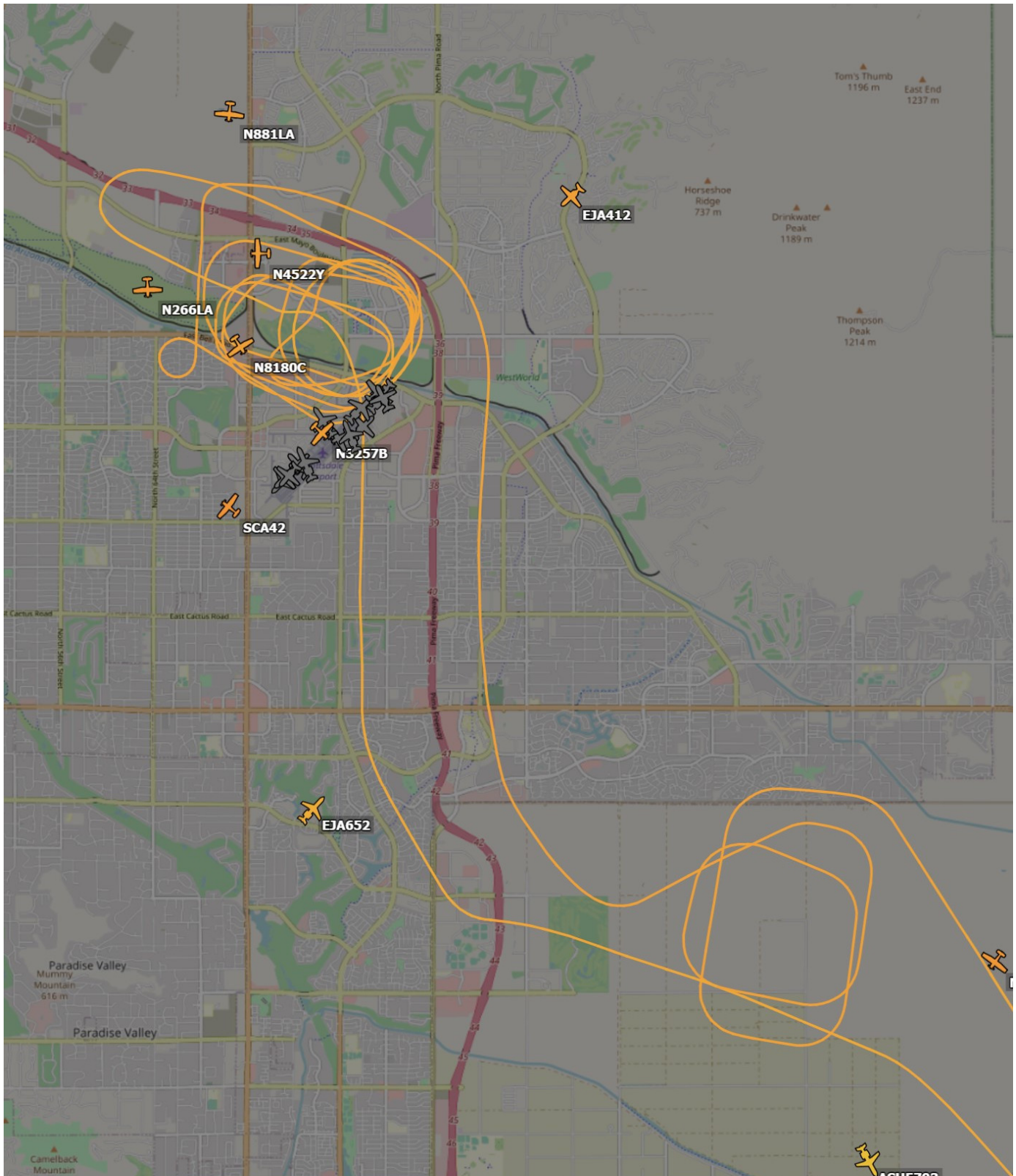
## The Fly-By, Southwest Region, January 2022

Sheldon Ross, DEMA Logistics Chief, said that the mission was an “outstanding effort by all. Sunday’s photos were spot on.”

Capt. Brett Russo, Willie Composite Squadron’s deputy commander, provided extensive planning for the mission and served as air operations branch director.

The WM Phoenix Open has been a premier event since 1987, featuring top-tier professional golfers and celebrities. It attracts 500,000 spectators annually. 🇺🇸

**Below:** This map shows the flight path of the CAP airplane (in yellow) in the crowded airspace over the TPC Scottsdale golf course. Note the busy Scottsdale airport at the edge of the target area. (Photo: Tech. Sgt. John Horne)







**Top:** Award recipients (L-R) are 1st Lt. Bill Lovett, 2nd Lt. Stephen Corts, Commander of Capital City Composite Squadron 1st Lt. Barry Huggins, Maj. John McCrory, 1st Lt. John Kojeski, Senior Member Cameron Robertson, and Capt. Ken Best. Not shown but also participating was Lt. Col. Pat Kerr. (Photo: 1st Lt. Nickie Grissom, CAP)

## ***Louisiana Wing Members Earn Disaster Relief Ribbon with "V" Device***

*by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUTE, La. - On February 7, 2022, Civil Air Patrol Disaster Relief Ribbons with "V" Device were presented to members of the Louisiana Wing's Capital City Composite Squadron. All who received these awards had participated in Hurricane Ida relief efforts.

The "V" device attached to each ribbon indicates the mission was launched because of a presidential emergency declaration. The actions taken by the award recipients included flying on various aerial photography missions or assisting with Mission Base activities to facilitate the flights. These activities commenced shortly after passage of the hurricane and continued for over two weeks thereafter.

Aerial photography crews of CAP's Louisiana Wing took over 120,000 pictures of damages inflicted by the hurricane. In total, the acquired images covered over 1,000 square miles of the state. These photographs will be used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to assess the overall damage caused by Hurricane Ida, and to better prepare for future weather events.

Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 555 single-engine aircraft and 2,250 small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. 🇺🇸





**Top:** The members of the 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Luke Air Force Base and CAP's 388th Composite Squadron share a common mascot – the bulldog, shown on both unit flags – here posing by an F-35 Lightning II fighter jet.

**Below:** Visiting CAP senior members and cadets received an extensive briefing before visiting the flightline and the F-35 maintenance hangar. (Photos: Senior Member Roxanne Schorbach, CAP)

## ***Arizona Wing Cadets Tour the F-35 Maintenance Facility at Luke Air Force Base***

*by Senior Member Roxanne Schorbach, CAP, Arizona Wing*

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – On March 5, 2022, cadets from the 388th Composite Squadron in Glendale and Falcon Composite Squadron in Mesa had a memorable field trip to Luke Air Force Base to spend time "up close and personal" with an F-35 fighter jet and its maintenance crew.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. David Edwards explained that the field trip and tour of the 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit was, "a rare opportunity. Not a lot of people get to spend time around an F-35 as it is a closely guarded secret because it is the most expensive and most complex weapon we have in the United States."

The 18 cadets were given a briefing on safety on the flight line and customs and courtesies. "The tour will be an inside look at what





the maintainers do every day to put the F-35 in the air, the responsibilities they have in making sure the aircraft is safe and reliable when the pilots go operational," Edwards said.

The first stop was the flight line, where cadets climbed stands, allowing them to look directly inside the cockpit. Maintenance technicians explained the different systems used by a pilot in flight and explained, in interesting detail, the ejection seat, how it works, and the physical toll a pilot experiences when ejected.

After nearly an hour with the aircraft on the flight line, the cadets went to the maintenance hangar. Inside the hangar, four aircraft were in repair or scheduled maintenance. Falcon Squadron's Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Matthew McCaskill said, "It's pretty neat being able to look into how the maintenance crew does things. The work that goes into fixing even one jet is impressive.

"Being able to go inside the maintenance hangar and see one of the F-35 engines out of the plane was really interesting," he said.

After viewing the maintenance hangar, cadets were taken to the support section and were able to see firsthand how tools and spare parts for the F-35 were organized and stored. The pilot's helmet was of particular interest to everyone. The helmet acts as a virtual hub for the entire aircraft, connecting all sensors and systems to the pilot to provide situational awareness. Helmets are custom fitted to each pilot to ensure the mounted display system perfectly aligns with the pilot's eyes.

The technicians in this department emphasized the importance of accountability of all parts. Even the smallest tools need to be accounted for to ensure nothing is forgotten in or around a jet aircraft.

Cadet Tech. Sgt. John Rico from the 388th Composite Squadron summed up the visit by saying, "I enjoyed everything. Being able to see what the maintenance crews do on base, to have experienced the tour, and have insight on how they work together was incredible." 🇺🇸

**Right:** Cadets climbed stands, allowing them to look directly inside the F-35 cockpit. Maintenance technicians explained the different systems used by a pilot in flight, including the ejection seat.







**Top:** Baton Rouge Catholic High School teacher Tiffany Meek and CAP pilot Major John McCrory standing beside the CAP Cessna C-182 aircraft in which Mrs. Meek took her teacher orientation flight at Baton Rouge Metropolitan airport. (Photos: Capt. Ken Best, CAP)

### ***Louisiana Wing CAP Squadron Flies Catholic High School Science Teacher***

*by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUGE, La. - On February 28, 2022, the Capital City Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) took Ms. Tiffany Meek, a high school teacher, on a Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flight from Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport.

CAP's nationwide TOP program is designed to familiarize teachers with flight and help them develop their presentation of aerospace education to their students. Its purpose is to motivate teachers to bring aviation to their students, who then may participate as cadets in CAP or go on to pursue aviation careers in the military or civilian aerospace industry. The CAP program is further designed to alleviate the shortage of pilots both in the military and in the commercial sectors of the aviation community.





**Above:** Catholic High School teacher Tiffany Meek at the controls of the CAP Cessna C-182 aircraft just prior to takeoff from the Baton Rouge Metropolitan airport.

Mrs. Meek teaches aerospace engineering and biology at Catholic High School in Baton Rouge. She also serves as the fishing club moderator. Catholic High's aerospace engineering class focuses on the study of the engineering discipline which develops new technologies for use in aviation, defense systems, and space exploration. The course explores the evolution of flight, flight fundamentals, navigation and control, aerospace materials, propulsion, space travel and related careers.

Having recently completed a unit on forces of flight, Mrs. Meek plans to share with her classes her flight experience and numerous pictures taken before and during her orientation flight. Since several of her students plan to attend military academies and pursue engineering careers, she is interested in having CAP squadron members serve as guest speakers.

Describing her experience, Mrs. Meek said, "It was a completely exciting perspective viewing my school and home aerially at a relatively low altitude." She added, "I was most impressed with the ability of Maj. John McCrory, my pilot, to simultaneously operate the plane, jot notes, scan the radar, communicate with the air control tower, and educate me during the flight."

Mrs. Meek also mentioned that she was very pleased to learn about the extensive safety procedures required before and after flight and was extremely grateful as an educator for the experience provided to her concerning Civil Air Patrol's program. 🇺🇸



**Right:** Cadet Tech. Sgt. Abigail Matsuyoshi presented a flag to family members of Charles Gregersen in appreciation of his service in World War II.

**Below:** (L-R) Promotion of Capt. John Sneddon and 1st Lt. Brian Koeneke (not in photo) by Squadron Commander Capt. Franklin Gibson, and Arizona Wing Commander Col. Robert Pinckard, (Photos: Dawn Haggerty, [imagingbydawn.com](http://imagingbydawn.com))

## **Arizona Wing Squadron Celebrated a Night of Honors, Awards, and Promotions**

*by Tech. Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing*

MESA, Ariz. – On February 24, 2022, the honors, awards, and promotions flowed like a torrent through a special meeting of Willie Composite Squadron 304.

The evening began with a special flag presentation to honor Charles Peter Gregerson, a World War II veteran who died recently. Gregerson served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was present during the Battle of Iwo Jima. The flag was presented to family members by Cadet Tech. Sgt. Abigail Matsuyoshi.

Several senior members were promoted during the event including:

- Promotion to 2nd Lt.: Christopher Joens, Christina Kim, and Daria Peterson.
- Promotion to 1st Lt.: Gary DeHoff, Michael Haggerty, and Brian Koeneke.
- Promotion to Capt.: John Sneddon.

A Commanders Commendation was presented to Capt. Jim Space for his numerous missions during the pandemic years of 2020-2021. The commendation cited Space for “the many years of sustained excellence of service he has brought to Civil Air Patrol and the Arizona Wing. He donates a great deal of time and expertise to the mission of CAP. Space flies many hours not only in authorized missions, but also in operational exercises, and also flies blood and plasma to destinations in Arizona on his own time. His proficiency in flying is of the highest standards established by CAP.”





**Right:** (L-R) Earhart Award recipients included Cadet Cpts. Simon Gregersen., Liam Proctor, and Asmera McNeace

**Below:** Col. Rob Pinckard, Arizona Wing commander, presented a Commanders Commendation to Capt. Jim Space for his service on numerous missions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Willie Composite Squadron received an Aerospace Achievement Award for outstanding participation in the number of senior members attaining the Yaeger Award. Recent Yaeger Award recipients include Maj. John Clarke McNeace, 1st Lt. Michael Haggerty, 2nd Lt. Pamela Armstrong, 2nd Lt. Theresa Farley, 2nd Lt. Dale Hawkins, 2nd Lt. Christopher Joens, 2nd Lt. Christina Kim, 2nd Lt. Daria Peterson, 2nd Lt. Franklin Ring Jr., 2nd Lt. Matthew Temple, Senior Member Adrienne Kellum, Senior Member Brian Koenke, Senior Member David Monk, Senior Member Alexander Petriuc, Senior Member Antonia Pabon, Senior Member Lynelle Pabon, and Senior Member Jose Vallejo.

A special gift was given to Scott Hinkle of the *We Make History* organization for his contribution to the cadets' education about significant events in U.S. history. The gift was an 1859 edition of "The Life of George Washington," presented by Squadron Commander Capt. Franklin Gibson.

There were many cadet promotions. Cadets Emily McDowell and Ryan Stover earned the Billy Mitchell Award and were promoted to 2nd Lt. Three cadets achieved the Earhart Award and promoted to cadet captain: Asmera McNeace, Liam Proctor and Simon Gregersen.

"Squadron 304 continues to strive for growth and to meet the highest expectations of the program, our members work diligently to achieve the goals and milestones that support the organization and its mission," Deputy Squadron Commander Capt. Brett Russo said. "I commend the dedication and hard work of everyone that made these achievements possible." 🇺🇸







(Image: [wisconsin.gov](https://www.wisconsin.gov))

## ***New Mexico Wing Commander Announces Return to Phase II, Then Phase III of CAP Remobilization, Within Four Days of Each Other***

*by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On February 24, 2022, in an e-mail to all wing members, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters announced the Wing's return to Phase II of CAP's Remobilization Plan. Four days later, in an e-mail dated February 28, she announced the return of the Wing to Phase III, to effective on the following day, March 1, 2022.

Under Phase II, 75 or fewer members could participate in indoor activities. If a meeting or event had more than 75 members, attendance could be in cohorts of 25, in accordance with CAP Form 160, with self-identified high-risk members encouraged to participate virtually.

Under Phase III, there are no restrictions on the number of individuals for either inside or outside activities. Members who are fully vaccinated can ride in ground transportation at full capacity, or at half capacity if the mix of passengers is both vaccinated and unvaccinated. Encampments and other overnight activities require an exception, and participants must follow the host wing requirements and overnight activity guidance. For activities such as the Wing Conference, which do not require shared barracks, latrines, and dining facilities, no exception is necessary.

Members may wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19, should wear a mask. Phase III does not require social distancing.

Health checks are required for entry into any activity (temperature checks and symptom screening questions). Members should use hand sanitizer and should also wipe down any commonly touched surfaces.

The Wing has moved up and down between phases, which have been tied to the rise and fall of COVID-19-positive cases in the state. On March 13, 2020, when the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic, the Wing was plunged into Phase Zero, which meant essential missions only. All in-person missions and training were suspended. The Wing and subordinate units met virtually. During this time, New Mexico Wing also delivered COVID-19 test samples from across the state to Albuquerque for testing, and then in December, delivering vaccine from Albuquerque to cities and towns statewide. The Wing was approved for transitioning to Phase I on July 27, 2020, but reverted to Phase Zero on November 16, 2020, due to a spike in COVID-19 cases. The Wing was approved to transition to Phase II on April 14, 2021, and finally into Phase III on June 12, 2021, only five days before New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced that all COVID-19 restrictions would be lifted on July 1, 2021. However, this newfound freedom was short-lived, since the Wing was plunged back into Phase II on November 15, due to the surge in cases from the Delta variant of the virus. The Wing reverted to Phase I on January 10, 2022, after a continued increase in COVID-positive cases.

Of the return to Phase III, Peters said, "we have all been through so much over the past two years, but thankfully, we have been able to return to Phase III and continue with our plans for activities that have been on hold for the past two years." 🇺🇸





**Top:** At the Scottsdale Composite Squadron change of command ceremony, Capt. Aaron Feller (left) relinquished command to Capt. John Huls (center) with Arizona Wing Commander Col. Rob Pinckard (right) presiding. *Photos: Capt. Lisa Nolan, CAP.*

## ***Arizona Wing Squadron Gets New Commander***

*by 1st Lt. Mark Huey, CAP, Arizona Wing*

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - On January 10, 2022, Capt. John Huls assumed command of Arizona Wing's Scottsdale Composite Squadron. The honor was formally recognized in a traditional military change of command ceremony on January 17, with Arizona Wing Commander Col. Robert C. Pinckard presiding. The event took place at the Scottsdale Squadron's meeting location at Scottsdale Airport. Huls assumed the Scottsdale Squadron leadership position from Capt. Aaron Feller, who had served as squadron commander for four years.

Pinckard said that Huls' background and experience made him an outstanding choice for the position. "John is a four-plus-year member of CAP and the Scottsdale Squadron, where he has successfully served in multiple roles," he said.

Huls shared his leadership vision for the squadron. "The strength of our squadron is built upon the hard work and continued dedication of the unit's leadership," he said. "Future success is contingent upon a positive, proactive, and honest command climate." Huls also said that his priority is to support the dedicated men and women who make the squadron operate as well as it does.





**Above:** After accepting command, Capt. John Huls shared his leadership vision for the squadron.

Huls joined CAP in 2017 and since that time has received the Commander's Commendation Award three times, and a Unit Citation award. He participated in supporting Homeland Security missions, received two Achievement Awards, and prosecuted two successful Emergency Locator Transmitter finds. He also earned the Yaeger Award, the Red Service Award, the Leadership Award with Silver Star, and the Grover Loening Award. Professionally, Huls is a senior IT program and project manager.

During the change of command ceremony, Feller was recognized for his tireless leadership and the success of his four-year term as commander, during which he merged Scottsdale Senior Squadron and Paradise Valley Cadet Squadron into Scottsdale Composite Squadron. During his term, Feller also led Scottsdale Squadron's move to its new office and meeting rooms location, oversaw the creation of a new radio communication facility, and grew the membership in the midst of a global pandemic. 🇺🇸





**Left:** The change of command having been completed, Santa Fe Composite Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Sean Blake hands the guidon back to Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Gabriel Gutierrez. Outgoing Commander Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff looks on. (Photos: Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, CAP)

**Below:** Lt. Col. Slingluff receives CAP's Commander's Commendation from New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters.

## ***New Mexico Wing's Santa Fe Composite Squadron Change of Command***

*by Maj. C. John Graham, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

SANTA FE, N.M. – On January 11, 2021, in a ceremony abbreviated due to the Omicron-driven pandemic surge, 1st Lt. Sean Blake took command of the Santa Fe Composite Squadron at the New Mexico National Guard Readiness Center, Santa Fe Regional Airport.

In attendance were New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, Vice Commander Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, Chief Charles Grosvenor (USN Ret.), outgoing Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff, Mrs. Carrie Blake, and squadron members. Although in-person attendance was limited to 10 persons, due to the Wing returning to Phase I of CAP's Remobilization Plan, online viewers also participated via Microsoft Teams.

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Gabriel Gutierrez posted the colors, and presented the squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Slingluff, who returned it to Col. Peters as she relinquished command, who in turn gave it to 1st Lt. Blake who accepted the command, thereby completing the change of command ceremony.

Blake addressed the squadron, saying, "I am eagerly awaiting taking on this role. my heart is all in this squadron and its missions." He went on to describe his initial focus areas of relationship-building and growth in squadron membership.

Col. Peters presented Civil Air Patrol's Commander's Commendation Award to Lt. Col. Slingluff, thanking her for four years of service as commander and recognizing her leadership in the annual Wreaths across America ceremony. She also noted that Lt. Col. Slingluff had received the 2019 Squadron Commander of the Year Award. Col. Peters then presented 1st Lt. Blake with his certificate of appointment.

As a token of thanks, Cadet Capt. Austin. Foddrill presented Lt. Col. Slingluff with a flag that had flown over the New Mexico National Guard Readiness Center, where the squadron meets. Cadet Foddrill said that when he came to the squadron two and a half years ago, "it felt like home." 1st Lt. Blake gave Lt. Col. Slingluff a CAP challenge coin in appreciation for her years as commander.

First Lt. Blake came to the Santa Fe Squadron in April 2021. In the Colorado and Idaho CAP Wings he had previously served as a Deputy Commander for Cadets, Emergency Services Officer, and Squadron Activities Officer. He is in the process of renewing his air operations branch director and Search and Rescue and Disaster Relief mission pilot qualifications.

Lt. Col. Slingluff is now Deputy Commander for Santa Fe Squadron and looks forward to being part of the squadron's future success. 🇺🇸







**Left:** Maj. Ron Marks (at podium) presented an award for aerospace education excellence to Capt. Brett Russo of Sky Harbor Composite Squadron.  
(Photos: Tech. Sgt. John Horne, CAP)

**Below:** Maj. Ron Marks (left) and Capt. Brett Russo (right) with Cadet Senior Airman Annabel Peltzer, who received the Air Force Association outstanding CAP squadron cadet award.

## ***Honors Shower Arizona Wing's Sky Harbor Composite Squadron***

*by Tech. Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing*

PHOENIX – On a dry desert night at the end of 2021, Sky Harbor Squadron 301 received a shower of honors to the unit and to individual members.

Maj. Ron Marks, Arizona Wing director of aerospace education, presented an award for outstanding squadron aerospace education to Capt. Brett Russo. Marks also presented Cadet Senior Airman Annabel Peltzer an Air Force Association outstanding CAP squadron cadet award. Peltzer also received an achievement certificate for outstanding leadership of the squadron's High Altitude

Balloon Challenge team and a ribbon recognizing her community service.

Several other Sky Harbor Squadron senior members and cadets also received recognition for achievements.

- Cadet Master Sgt. Asemah Bakkar received a certificate of achievement for outstanding duty performance.
- Cadet Elias Cariblom received a recognition certificate for achieving best in drill performance at the Great Start Program.
- Senior Members Lisa Ceballos and Paul Tucker received achievement certificates for their participation in the Great Start Program.

In addition, Sky Harbor Composite Squadron members were recognized by Arizona Wing for contributions to COVID-19 disaster relief missions and by the 161st Air Refueling Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard for supporting Family Day and several other programs. 🇺🇸







**Top:** US Army Lt. Col. (ret.) Chuck Howe (right), president of the David Westphall Veterans Foundation, gives Taos Composite Squadron cadets a tour of the David Westphall Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire. (Photo: Capt. Michael S. Anaya-Gorman, CAP)

## ***New Mexico Wing Cadets Tour David Westphall Vietnam Veterans Memorial***

*by Taos Composite Squadron Public Affairs*

TAOS, N.M. – Eight Civil Air Patrol cadets and two senior members from the Taos Composite Squadron visited the David Westphall Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, N.M., on March 21, 2022. The David Westphall Veterans Memorial Foundation's president, US Army Lt Col.(ret.) Chuck Howe, led a tour of the grounds, pointing out the history of the Memorial and telling the story of David Westphall and his parents, Victor 'Doc' Westphall and Jeanne Westphall.

According to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial website, [David Westphall – Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#), Westphall was born in 1940 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin but raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As a freshman at the University of New Mexico in 1958, he broke the record for the 100-yard dash with a time of 9.7 seconds. Westphall left UNM in 1959 to join the Marines and served as an enlisted man from 1959 to 1963. When he rejoined the Marines in March 1967, he was



commissioned as a first lieutenant. He was assigned as a platoon leader to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division – the same unit he had been assigned to as an enlisted man. On May 22, 1968, he was killed in a battle near Com Thien, South Vietnam, along with sixteen other servicemen.



**Right:** The HU1 (“Huey”) saved thousands of wounded servicemen, revolutionizing front-line medical treatment for ever.

**Left:** Marine Corps 1st Lt. David Westphall.

**Below:** Entrance to the Memorial Park, leading to the Memorial Building.  
(Photos: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park)

At tour’s end, Lt. Col. Howe presented each cadet with a David Westphall Foundation

challenge coin, and the cadets pledged a small donation to the memorial. Cadets will work over the summer to raise funds as a group to support the efforts of the foundation to tell these stories.



CAP cadets participate year-round in a program designed to teach them leadership, aerospace education, physical fitness, and character development. Capt. Michael Anaya-Gorman, the squadron’s Deputy Commander for Cadets, also emphasized the history and legacy of service and sacrifice associated with the uniform that CAP members wear. “CAP members are



civilians, but as the US Air Force Auxiliary and a part of the Air Force family, we have the privilege of wearing an Air Force-style uniform while we serve,” he said. “It is important that the cadets understand history, sacrifice and service associated with our uniforms and wear them correctly,” he added. 🇺🇸





**Top:** (L-R) Cadet Sr. Airman Allyssa Rougeau, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Wesley Felice, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Abbigale Rougeau, and Cadet Sr. Airman Samantha Jordan. (Photo: 1st Lt. Ryan Nelson, CAP)

## ***Louisiana Wing Cadets Provide Color Guard at National STOL Competition***

*by 2nd Lt. Tracy Jordan, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

JENNINGS, La. – On March 19, 2022, cadets from Civil Air Patrol's Lake Charles Composite Squadron served as color guard for the 2022 Swamp Short Take Off and Landing (STOL) National Competition in Jennings, La.

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Wesley Felice and Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Abbigale Rougeau carried the American and Louisiana flags, respectively. Cadet Senior Airman Allyssa Rougeau and Cadet Senior Airman Samantha Jordan served as rifle guards. Other squadron cadets helped make the STOL competition a success by marshalling planes and keeping the runways clear of debris.

As the fastest growing sport in aviation, STOL is a cross between a drag race and an aircraft control competition. The goal is for a pilot to take off land in feet and inches, with the winner having the shortest combined takeoff and landing distances. 🇺🇸





**Top:** New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters (front row, third from right) poses with the students and staff of the Wing's Level II and III Education and Training Class. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

## ***New Mexico Wing Hosts In-Person Education and Training Classes for Levels II and III***

*by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On March 19, 2022, New Mexico Wing hosted in-person training classes for senior members wanting to progress through Levels II and III of Civil Air Patrol's Education and Training Program. Presiding over the training was the New Mexico Wing Assistant Director of Education and Training Lt. Col. Chris Branan, a National staff member of CAP's Volunteer University (VOLUME).

The VOLUME training, launched in August 2020, replaces CAP's former Professional Development Program by offering training and courses online, with options for members to attend onsite training if it is offered by the wing. It also eliminated in-residence courses such as Region Staff College and National Staff College, which required senior members to expend great time and expense, in favor of the less expensive and more accessible online training.

According to Branan, the New Mexico Wing Volunteer University training is tailored to senior members who want to complete training in Levels I through V. Level I, which is the onboarding phase for all senior members, can be done entirely by the senior member under the squadron's guidance. Levels II through V require the student to join a class with other members training at the same level. Level V, the Executive Leadership Phase of training, will be rolled out later in 2022.

After Branan's overview, the students were divided into two classes. The Level II class, consisting of eight students, met in the Wing Headquarters main conference room, and the three students participating in Level III class met in the smaller conference room near the Wing Secretary's office.

The Level II class, which is the Learning Phase of Education and Training, was led by the three New Mexico Wing group commanders. Central New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert was enthusiastic about meeting in person. "We're coming out of COVID-19, and I love it! This is what CAP is all about," he said.

As an icebreaker, Eckert asked each student and members of the staff to introduce themselves and provide some background regarding their current position, training, and experience in CAP. He also fostered active participation from the students. "We encourage feedback," he said.





**Above:** Central New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col. Mike Eckert leads the Level II students in drill practice after lunch. (Photo: Lt. Col Andrew Selph, CAP)

The Level II class focused on the basic principles that students must learn to be well-formed CAP members. Eckert talked about the importance of accountability – both personal (accountability to oneself) and social (accountability to the group). He also discussed the importance of the Cadet Protection Program and the “two-deep rule,” where at least two senior members must be present where cadets are also present. “It’s to protect you, the senior members, as much as the cadets,” said Eckert.

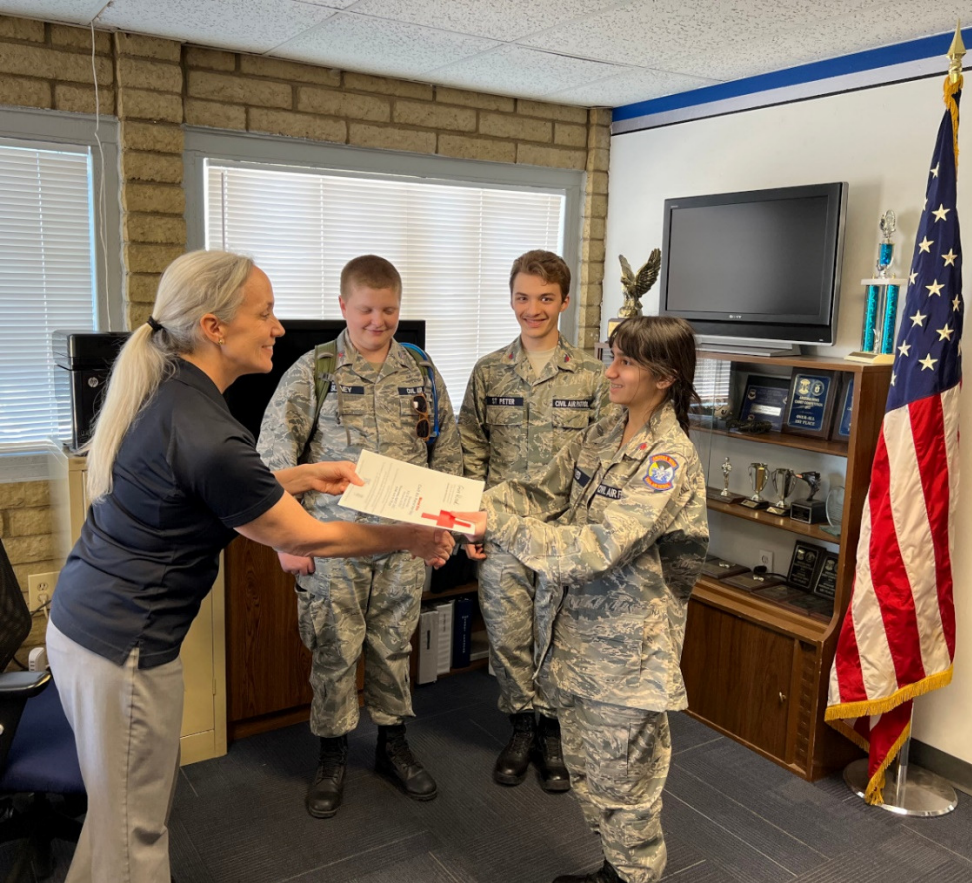
Southern New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter discussed the importance of choosing a specialty track, as well as mentoring. “Mentoring is very important,” Hunter said. “You are simply transferring what you know to someone else.”

In the smaller conference room, the Level III students delved into the more advanced topics of the Leadership Phase, such as compliance, where Lt. Col. Doug Weitzel talked about how it fits into the member’s current role in the unit, and what tools can help them to be compliant. First Lt. Joseph Bellicini spoke on finance and physical assets, and the responsibility of the squadron commander in appointing a finance committee. Later in the day, former National Commander and Wing Government Relations Officer Maj. Gen. Mark Smith talked about the care and feeding of a member.

Just before breaking for lunch, students and staff posed for a group photo in front of Wing Headquarters. After lunch, Northern New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col Andrew Selph facilitated discussions on communication fundamentals. Outside, in the parking lot, Level II students practiced their drill, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Selph, who was assisted by Lt. Col. Eckert.

Branan mentioned that the modules covered in the training were moderated, and members were given credit for all the modules they completed, but they were still responsible for completing any automated modules online. 🇺🇸





**Left:** First Lt. Liz Schmitt shares a certificate of appreciation from the Red Cross with Cadet Airman 1st Class Parkha Sayyed, as Cadet Senior Airman James Sliney and Cadet Staff Sgt. Austin St. Peter look on.

**Below:** Cadet Staff Sgt. Austin St. Peter escorts a blood donor from the squadron building to the Red Cross Bloodmobile. (Photos: Capt. Nic Fuqua, CAP)

## **Arizona Wing Squadron Hosts Operation Pulse Lift Blood Donation Centers**

*by Senior Member Garth Stevens, CAP, Arizona Wing*

PHOENIX – On March 17, 2022, for the third time, Deer Valley Composite Squadron senior members and cadets participated in Civil Air Patrol's Operation Pulse Lift, hosting a

blood donation center. A Red Cross mobile donor unit (also known as a "bloodmobile") arrived at the squadron building at Deer Valley Airport with all the necessary equipment to collect and process blood donations.

Operations got underway at 7 a.m. and ran until 3 p.m., with a total of 19 units of blood collected from donors. First Lt. Liz Schmitt supervised the day's activities, with support from three mission staff assistants: Cadet Staff Sgt. Austin St. Peter, Cadet Senior Airman James Sliney and Cadet Airman 1st Class Parkha Sayyed.

"This was the first time we were able to use the squadron building for pre-donation registration and post-donation recovery," Schmitt said. "It was also the first time that cadets were able to work as MSAs, now that we're in phase three of COVID recovery.

"We're scheduled to host one emergency blood donation center per month for the foreseeable future," Schmitt said.

CAP began Operation Pulse Lift in Arizona as a COVID-19 disaster relief mission in March 2020 in response to the Surgeon General's announcement of the critical need for blood donations during the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. As nearly 7,000 blood donation centers closed because of the pandemic, CAP opened its squadron facilities to support the American Red Cross.

Over time, the program has expanded to include multiple collection locations in Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. To date, Operation Pulse Lift has collected more than 11,000 units of blood, either directly through CAP-sponsored donation centers or by having CAP members and family report their local blood donations at non-CAP locations for inclusion in the mission's total.

Operation Pulse Lift continues, with eight blood donation centers scheduled through April, including a day-long effort during the Arizona Wing conference on April 23. Squadron members and family wishing to give blood as part of the program can find local donation centers at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org), using sponsor code CAP. Report donations at non-CAP blood donation centers by emailing [pulselift@capnhq.gov](mailto:pulselift@capnhq.gov). 🇺🇸





## On Writing

### ***Social Media's Influence on Bad Writing Habits***

AUSTIN, Texas – The proliferation of electronic bulletin boards, collectively called social media, and the ability to reach them by using smart phones, which in turn have no traditional keyboard but a hard-to-use clickable list of letters in QWERTY order, that looks like a miniature keyboard but requires extra clicks to use numbers, symbols, and capital letters. After a while, users (especially the young) get very good at this, especially when they speed things up by using shortcuts, some of which are listed below (most of them acronyms, mysterious to some of us):

AFAIK – As far as I know  
AMA – Ask me again  
BRB – Be right back  
BTAIM – Be that as it may  
DAE – Does anyone else?  
DYK – Did you know?  
FOMO – Fear of missing out  
FTFY – Fixed that for you  
ICYMI – In case you missed it  
IDK – I don't care  
IMHO – In my humble opinion  
IRL – In real life  
LMAO – Laughing my a\*\* off  
LMK – Let me know  
NBD – No big deal  
OMW – On my way  
ROFL – Rolling on the floor laughing  
SFW – Safe for work  
TBBH – To be brutally honest  
TL;DR – Too long; didn't read  
WBU – What about you?  
YOLO – You only live once.

A major reason for creating this torrent of cryptic letter combination has been the popularity of Twitter, which allots a maximum character limit, not to be exceeded (spaces count). Some politicians make extensive use of this medium, although they avoid using the above codes; instead, they write to the limit, then immediately write the continuation in another tweet, until done. It is not known whether they write their own messages, or someone else posts them for them. Either way, they take responsibility for the content.

The real problem with using social media from the cell phone is that, very often, essential parts of syntax are omitted (whether their absence is understood or not), to the point that others begin to do the same, and it becomes a [bad] habit. Notorious casualties of this process have been practically all prepositions. Sadly, people who do this online tend to do the same when writing serious English text.



Since lexicographers and grammarians are guided by “usage,” when it becomes widespread enough, it is bound to gain legitimacy at some point. And there will go the English language as we know it, on its plunge towards increasing impoverishment.

Homonyms, or near-homonyms, are apt to appear in articles posted online by presumably youngish authors. Here is an example:

*Netflix emailed customers who were being effected by the update on Monday to let them know their devices would stop working on Dec. 1.*

The most glaring error is *effected* used in place of *affected*. Secondary to it is word order, which would have been better served by placing *On Monday* first in the sentence. Also, *that* is missing from the independent clause that ends the sentence. Below is a possible edit,

*On Monday, Netflix emailed customers who were being affected by the update to let them know that their devices would stop working on Dec. 1.*

Another result of inattentive writing is the inability to see the subject when it is followed by a qualifier that ends in a noun. Below is a glaring example of it.

*Users were enraged to find that a whole new batch of these devices are expiring with Netflix's next big update in December.*

The sentence above has a starting clause *Users were enraged to find* followed by the conjunction *that*, which normally precedes a noun clause, and here it is *a whole new batch of these devices*, which in turn bears scrutiny: *a* normally precedes a noun, in this case *batch*, which is followed by the preposition *of* which specifies something about the noun (*batch*), and the noun is a singular. Therefore, the singular *batch* needs the singular *is* and not *are*. To most people, the presence of the noun *devices* just before the verb triggers the use of *are*, showing that they do not realize that it is *batch* that is in play. The easily edited sentence is below,

*Users were enraged to find that a whole new batch of these devices is expiring with Netflix's next big update in December.*

Then there is the loss of an article or some other “unnecessary” particle in the sentence. Consider the following example,

*For some users, this was just the latest in string of indignities.*

This sentence would have been readily accepted in a social media posting. However, in an article, it says more about the writer than the issue involved. Here is the no-brainer edit:

*For some users, this was just the latest in a string of indignities.*

Then, there is the great uncertainty between which might be right, *its*, or *it's*. Unfortunately, rather than learning which one is correct, some writers play Russian roulette and opt for picking one at random. Or they firmly believe them to be what they are not. As a result, they write by approximation, using conviction rather than knowledge. Take, as an example, the sentence below,

*It is not clear how true this is, as the company's blame the lack of support on "technical limitations," which could be more of a hardware issue.*

To be kind, one might think that the writer wanted to say *the companies blame*, and not *the company blames*, believing that the issue being discussed in this article involved both Netflix and the manufacturers of smart TVs and other plug-in devices used in streaming audio-video content. However, it is a change in the computer coding that Netflix will implement, and its effect on obsolete hardware, so inevitably one understands that the statement applies to Netflix and no one else. Therefore, the following is the only edit that would apply in American English.

*It is not clear how true this is, as the company blames the lack of support on "technical limitations," which could be more of a hardware issue.* 🍷

**Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP  
SWR Director of Public Affairs**



## **The Safety Corner**

### ***Psychological Safety in CAP's Mishap Review Process***

How psychologically safe members feel when they are participating in CAP has implications for innovation, team interactions, productivity, and ultimately mission success. Clearly, without “psychological safety” in an organization, it is difficult for members to be at their best.

Research by Amy Edmondson in 1999, published in her paper “*Psychological safety and learning behavior in work teams*” ( <https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/37968728> ) found that organizations with a trusting workplace performed better. She elaborates on psychological safety, “The term is about candor; it’s about being direct, taking risks, being willing to say, “I screwed that up.” Being willing to ask for help when you’re in over your head. Feeling safe, secure and being able to work without the fear of negative consequences, even when you make a mistake, relies on feeling psychologically safe. It means people are comfortable being themselves. In psychologically safe workplaces, diversity is respected and personal risk-taking is encouraged. Above all, team members respect each other and feel accepted”.

Blame and criticism create environments where members are fearful. This kind of psychologically unsafe environment does not get the best out of people. They dare not share ideas for fear of being shut down.

In a psychologically safe workplace people are encouraged to understand each other’s points of view, support each other, and feel confident to make suggestions and offer ideas. Mistakes are made, reviewed and learned from.

Experiencing conflict, a lack of respect, or lack of trust, has a negative impact on the ability to think strategically. It stifles creativity and teamwork.

An approach to promoting Psychological Safety is to acknowledge and encourage ideas and the sharing of mistakes. Things do not always go according to plan. Mistakes offer important learning and are often opportunities for major needed changes.

#### ***This concept is fundamental to CAP's Mishap Review process.***

Start by referring to CAP Regulation 160-2, Safety Reporting and Review.

Once a mishap has been reported, the next step is to determine why that mishap occurred. By analyzing the reason why it occurred, we can take action to improve our risk controls or correct the factors that contributed to the mishap.

The three key principles that guide the CAP mishap review process are:

1. We look for the cause; we do not find fault.
2. Every mishap review is important.
3. We value the member. In some cases, a mishap may be caused by an error or act of a member. We do not blame the member. Our goal is to analyze the sequence of events leading up to the mishap and determine what improvements can be made.

These principles are key in establishing and promoting “Psychological Safety” in CAP. Furthermore, Psychological Safety has been proven to be a worthwhile principle in any effective organization. 🍷

***Maj. Robert Rivas, CAP***

*Safety Officer, 016 Squadron, Group 2, Illinois Wing*



## ***Associated Press Style in a Nutshell***

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and tap two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations in the dateline (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion.
- To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person's permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person's grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as "kid."
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use "kid," "boy," "girl" or "child" but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use "their" for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, "the cadet took their meal."
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or high-ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. Only the Navy and Coast Guard have the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks in the body of your article, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the rules of English grammar and syntax, and follow them.
- **For best results**, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org) – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖